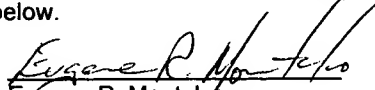




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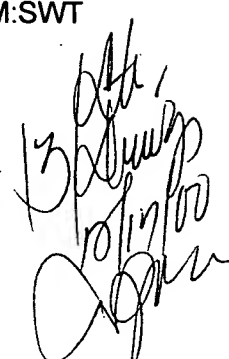
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on or before the date shown below.


Eugene R. Montalvo
Date: December 7, 2000

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3600 MAIL ROOM



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)

DONALD WAYNE ALLEN ET AL.)

Serial No. 08/970,312)

Filed November 14, 1997)

FAIRED TRUSS SPAR)

Group Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: J. Lee

December 7, 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ATTN: DRAFTSMAN
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

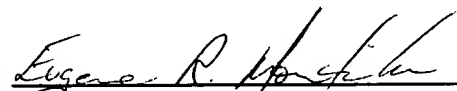
RESPONSE UNDER MPEP § 608.02(r)

Attorney for Applicant hereby files this Response to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2000 in the above-referenced application. Applicant submits a proposed red ink sketch of Figure 4 showing changes in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(v) to this Office action.

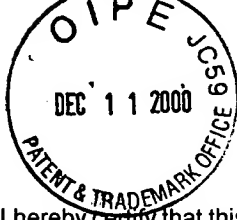
Please charge any fee associated with the filing of these drawings to Shell Oil Company, Deposit Account No. 19-1800.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD WAYNE ALLEN ET AL

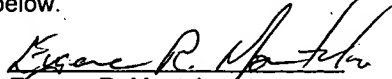
By 
Their Attorney, Eugene R. Montalvo
Registration No. 33,790
(713) 241-0296

P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463



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Date: December 7, 2000

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December 7, 2000



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE UNDER MPEP § 608.02(r)

Attorney for Applicants hereby files this Response to the Office Action mailed August 31, 2000. A Petition for a One Month extension of time in which to respond to the Office Action is being filed concurrently. At the time the Office Action was issued, claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were pending.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1, at line 4 by deleting "seperated" and substituting -- separated-

Please amend claim 1, at line 4 by deleting "lowere" and substituting -- lower --.

In the Drawings

Attorney is submitting red ink corrections to Figure 4 under a separate cover letter to the Official Draftsman.